Beginner

Grace LINK CURRICULUM

Resource for Leaders/Teachers

Third Quarter

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Beginner

Leader/Teacher Guide

A Sabbath School Resource for Leaders/Teachers of Beginners
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

www.gracelink.net

Year A, Third Quarter

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A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.

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Beginner Sabbath School Leader/Teacher Guide (ISSN 0163-8785) Vol. 46, No. 3, Third Quarter 2022. Published for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® by the Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687, U.S.A.

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Postmaster: Send address changes to *Beginner Sabbath School Leader/Teacher Guide*, Pacific Press® Publishing Association, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353. Periodicals postage paid at Nampa, Idaho, and at additional mailing offices. Single copy, US$24.99 plus postage. One year, United States: US$71.16; Canada and foreign: US$79.16. Prices subject to change without notice.

Printed in U.S.A.

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Contents

SERVICE We are God's little helpers.

1. Samuel Listens to God (July) - 12

GRACE Grace means belonging to God.

2. Food for Elijah (August) - 30

COMMUNITY Community means caring for one another.

3. A New Baby Boy (September) - 50

Lesson Outline

Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
	SERVICE: We are God's little helpers.				
Lesson 1 July	God speaks to Samuel.	1 Samuel 3:1-10; PP 581, 582	1 Samuel 3:1, TLB	We are God's little helpers.	See p. 14.
	GRACE: Grace means belonging to God.				
Lesson 2 August	Elijah and the ravens.	1 Kings 17:1-16; PK 119-131	Philippians 4:19, NIV	God takes care of our needs.	See p. 32.
	COMMUNITY: Community means caring for one another.				
Lesson 3 September	Elisha and the Shunammite woman.	2 Kings 4:8-37; PK 237	1 Thessalonians 5:15, TLB	We can be kind to others.	See p. 52.

Bible Study Overview

- **Lesson 1** teaches us that we can be God's helpers.
- **Lesson 2** we learn that God takes care of our needs.
- **Lesson 3** reminds us that a community means caring for one another, those within the family of God with whom we associate often.

To the leader/teacher

These guides were developed to:

- **Introduce the lesson on Sabbath.** The child then reviews and applies the principles studied with the help of their parents and Bible study guides during the week. In this way, the lessons learned in Sabbath School become a vital part of the child's growing faith experience. Memory verses, which are also learned in Sabbath School, are reviewed and reinforced during the following week, connected in the child's mind with the interesting activities they have already experienced.
- **Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message.** These messages each relate to one of the four dynamics of a growing faith experience: grace (God loves me), worship (I love God), community (we love each other), and service (God loves you too).
- **Reach each child in the way he or she learns best.** By following the natural learning cycle on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with "the message" for the week in a way that will capture each one's attention and imagination.

- **Give children active learning experiences** so they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by *debriefing* sessions in which you ask questions that lead the children to reflect on what they experienced, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.

- **Involve the adult Sabbath School staff** in new and flexible ways. A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult. A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their learning experience while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator's part.

  A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(Note: The Getting Started section is the time-honored "business" of Sabbath School and may be used at any point during the lesson; however, it is recommended that you begin with Arrival Activities, even while some children are still arriving.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning cycle outlined, but adapt activities as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

About Materials

As you follow the natural learning sequence outlined in each lesson, you may want to adapt activities for use in your particular situation, and this may require a change in the need for materials.

Look ahead at the Program Overview for each month's program so you can be prepared with the materials suggested. Before the quarter begins, obtain regularly used supplies.

Supplies Frequently Used in Beginner Sabbath School

Art Supplies

- ❑ aluminum foil
- ❑ chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- ❑ cotton balls or polyester fiberfill
- ❑ craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ❑ crayons, markers, colored pencils
- ❑ glitter or glitter glue
- ❑ glue or glue sticks
- ❑ hole punch
- ❑ inked stamp pads (various colors)
- ❑ magnetic strips (peel and stick)
- ❑ paints—finger paints, tempera
- ❑ pencils, pens
- ❑ plastic wrap
- ❑ pom-poms
- ❑ rubber bands
- ❑ scissors (blunt-nosed)
- ❑ stapler and staples
- ❑ tape—cellophane and masking
- ❑ toilet paper rolls and/or paper towel rolls (empty)
- ❑ yarn, string, thread (several colors of each)

Papers

- ❑ butcher or white tablecloth roll
- ❑ construction (various colors, including black and brown)
- ❑ drawing
- ❑ finger paint paper
- ❑ newsprint
- ❑ poster board
- ❑ tissue paper (various colors, including white)
- ❑ writing paper

Other

- ❑ animals (toy, stuffed, plastic)
- ❑ angel (felts or cardboard on sticks)
- ❑ baby bottles
- ❑ baby wipes or paper towels
- ❑ bags—paper, plastic trash bags, sealable plastic, large and small
- ❑ bells
- ❑ "Bible" books (cardboard or felt)
- ❑ blankets—baby/doll-size, regular size
- ❑ birthday cake (artificial) with candles, matches
- ❑ birthday gifts, inexpensive (optional)
- ❑ blindfolds, one for each child
- ❑ board books, variety of subjects
- ❑ broom (child-size), dust cloths, other cleaning supplies
- ❑ bubble solution and blowers
- ❑ building blocks, boxes, or Legos
- ❑ carpenter tools (play hammer, saw, etc.), child-size
- ❑ costumes—angel, Bible-times for children and adults
- ❑ crowns
- ❑ cups—paper, plastic, Styrofoam
- ❑ device that can play music (CD, MP3, streaming, etc.)
- ❑ dolls, doll clothes
- ❑ felts—angels, animals, children, flowers, Jesus, people, scenery, sun
- ❑ flashlight
- ❑ mirror (hand mirror)
- ❑ nature items (rocks, feathers, shells, bird nests, artificial flowers and fruit)
- ❑ offering container (basket, bowl, etc.)

- ❑ paper plates, napkins, cups
- ❑ pull toy (optional)
- ❑ puzzles, simple wooden or cardboard
- ❑ rainbow sticks
- ❑ recorded sounds (bird, animal, storm, etc.)
- ❑ rhythm or toy musical instruments
- ❑ rocking chair, adult and child
- ❑ smocks or old shirts to cover children's clothing
- ❑ stickers (animal, nature, Jesus, etc.)
- ❑ squirt bottle
- ❑ things that float

Additional Supplies Needed This Quarter

Lesson 1

- ❑ toys
- ❑ towels or small sheets
- ❑ dish towels
- ❑ plastic dishes
- ❑ clothes
- ❑ church door prop
- ❑ mats or bath towels
- ❑ wooden sticks
- ❑ basket
- ❑ plastic or pretend bread
- ❑ table
- ❑ star on a stick (optional)
- ❑ colander (optional)
- ❑ rattles
- ❑ clothes hamper or basket
- ❑ washcloths
- ❑ water
- ❑ photocopies of Samuel robe pattern (see p. 70)
- ❑ fabric or paper scraps
- ❑ ribbons
- ❑ photocopies of Samuel pattern (see p. 71)
- ❑ two 4" x 6" (10 cm. x 15 cm.) rectangles of paper or fabric or small brown envelopes
- ❑ boy and girl silhouette patterns (see p. 71)
- ❑ Jesus stickers (optional)
- ❑ small jars or cans (see p. 72)
- ❑ votive candles
- ❑ glitter (optional)

Lesson 2

- ❑ toy stuffed birds
- ❑ plastic food
- ❑ dishpans or bowls
- ❑ plastic aprons (optional)
- ❑ diapers
- ❑ small umbrella
- ❑ "tree"
- ❑ "star" lights
- ❑ felts of houses, food, clothing items
- ❑ felt board
- ❑ Jesus banners on a stick
- ❑ play cooking equipment
- ❑ copies of praying hands pattern (see p. 73)
- ❑ small paper lunch bags (see p. 73)
- ❑ small twigs
- ❑ small containers with lids
- ❑ flour
- ❑ copy of boy or girl pattern (see p. 74)

Lesson 3

- ❑ plastic dishes
- ❑ silverware
- ❑ play food
- ❑ "vases"
- ❑ artificial flowers
- ❑ soft toys
- ❑ imitation fruit
- ❑ felt (see p. 75)
- ❑ sew-in interfacing
- ❑ drawings
- ❑ Bible promises cards
- ❑ fabric
- ❑ ribbon
- ❑ rings
- ❑ cardboard or vinyl (see p. 76)
- ❑ family pictures
- ❑ round plastic lids or cardboard circles

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development.

The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work,* ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months, use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

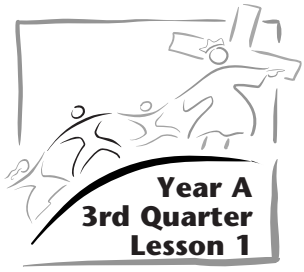
- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily—one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying—the crying usually stops when the child's needs are met
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lisp His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer



Samuel Listens to God

SERVICE We are God's little helpers.

References
1 Samuel 3:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 581, 582.

Memory Verse
"Little Samuel was helping the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:1, TLB).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that they can be helpers.
Feel happy to help God.
Respond by helping at home and in Sabbath School.

The Message

We are God's little helpers.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Samuel is a child. He lives with Eli in the tabernacle and helps him. One night while in bed, Samuel hears a voice calling him. He gets up and goes to Eli and asks him what he wants. Eli says he didn't call Samuel and sends him back to bed. This happens a second time. When it happens the third time, Eli tells Samuel to answer the voice and say, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening." Samuel does as Eli says and receives a message from God. All during the rest of his life Samuel receives messages from God to share with others.

This is a lesson about service.

God called Samuel to help Him. Samuel said, "Yes," and he did what God asked. Samuel followed God's instructions to help others. When we follow God's instructions and help others, we are serving the Lord.

Teacher Enrichment

"Though Samuel's youth was passed at the tabernacle devoted to the worship of God, he was not free from evil

ONE

influences or sinful example. . . . It was his constant endeavor to become what God would have him. This is the privilege of every youth. God is pleased when even little children give themselves to His service. . . .

"While he was yet a child, a linen ephod was placed upon him as a token of his consecration to the work of the sanctuary. Young as he was when brought to minister in the tabernacle, Samuel had even then duties to perform in the service of God, according to his capacity. These . . . [he] performed to the best of his ability, and with a willing heart. His religion was carried into every duty of life. He regarded himself as God's servant, and his work as God's work" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* p. 573).

Room Decorations

Prepare an indoor tabernacle scene, including a window with curtains with some small white Christmas lights in the back for stars; a table; a mat or bath towel for a bed; a lamp or a candle; some baskets and cleaning supplies. Have a large church made from a big appliance box, or a child-sized church door.

Program Overview

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1	**Parent Time**	up to 5		
2	**Arrival Activities**	up to 10	*A. Imitation Game*	
			B. Toy Corner	boxes, toys
			C. Book Basket	listening and/or helping board books
			D. Home Center	towels or small sheets
			E. Help Center	dish towels, plastic dishes, clothes, toys
			F. Listening Game	
			G. Hiding Game	bell
			H. Rocking Chairs	adult-size rocking chairs
3	**Getting Started**	up to 10	Welcome	toy musical instruments
			Prayer	
			Visitors	
			Offering	basket or other container
			Birthdays	artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull toy (optional), small gift (optional)
4	**Experiencing the Story**	up to 30	*A. Memory Verse*	Bible "books"
			B. Samuel Lived in the Tabernacle	church door prop, Bible-times costumes
			C. Samuel Helped Make His Bed	mats or bath towels
			D. Samuel Helped Clean the Tabernacle	dust rags or washcloths, small brooms
			E. Samuel Helped With Wood	wooden sticks, basket
			F. Samuel Helped With the Bread	plastic or pretend bread, small paper or plastic plates, table
			G. Samuel's Bedtime	star on a stick (optional), flashlight and colander (optional)
			H. Samuel Hears Someone Call	Bible-times adult costume, mats or bath towels
			I. I Can Listen	
			J. I Can Help at Sabbath School	toys, basket, rattles or toy stuffed animals
			K. I Can Help at Home	child-size brooms and mops, clothes, clothes hamper or basket, washcloths, water
			L. I Am Jesus' Helper	

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 **Make and Take** (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	*Samuel's New Robe*	photocopies of Samuel robe pattern (see p. 70), construction paper, safety scissors, fabric or paper scraps, glue, markers
	Week 2	*Welcome Cards*	colored paper, safety scissors, glue, ribbons, stickers
	Week 3	*Running Samuel*	photocopies of Samuel pattern (see p. 71), crayons, safety scissors, two 4" x 6" (10 cm. x 15 cm.) rectangles of paper or fabric, or small brown envelopes, glue
	Week 4	*God's Little Helper*	plastic or paper cups, craft sticks, boy and girl silhouette patterns (see p. 71), glue, crayons, Jesus stickers (optional)
	Week 5	*Candleholders*	small jars or cans, votive candles, colored tissue paper, glue, markers, glitter-optional (see p. 72)
Snack Center (Optional)			crackers, fruit, or juice

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Bryan was 2 and was fascinated by our little aquarium. He loved to watch the fish, and *loved* to help feed them. One morning he began to complain about his tummy hurting. "My tummy hurts, Mommy," he said over and over. We took him to the doctor. After medication for two days, he still didn't feel better. Eventually *six* doctors at the hospital examined him and decided he had a virus. Upon further review, we found out that Bryan had tasted some of the fish water. He soon recovered to his full, active self. How we hurt for him in the meantime!

Share a time your child's "helpful-

ness" created a problem. What is your normal reaction when he or she tries to help? Are you encouraging or discouraging helpfulness?

Week 2

"I want to help you make bread," Carson squealed. *Oh, no,* I thought. *I just want to get this done quickly.* But in the back of my mind I knew I should let him help. So I did. After wiping up flour on the floor, the chair that he stood on, and the counter, I was glad I had let him help. "While they are still young, the mother should give them some simple task to do each day. It will take longer for her to teach them how than it would to do it herself; but let her remember that she is to lay for their character building the foundation of helpfulness" (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* p. 122).

"Give your little children something to do, and let them have the happiness of supposing they help you" (*Child Guidance,* p. 119).

What simple tasks can you give your child to do at this age?

Week 3

I thanked my daughter-in-law for the nice meal and offered to do the dishes. She laughed and said, "He won't let you." She smiled and nodded at my all-grown-up son. He carried the dishes to the sink and carefully washed, dried, and put them all away. Could this be the same child to whom I had spoken again and again? "Please pick up your toys." "Take your shoes to your room." "Put the books back on the bookshelf." Now he was a capable adult. Someone who could cook a meal, clean up after himself, and do laundry. I smiled and said a prayer of thanks to God for seeing me through those days that I thought would never end.

When you feel overwhelmed, be encouraged that there really is "a light at the end of the tunnel." Our God will be with you every step of the way.

What things are you facing that seem like they'll never end? What ways do you cope with those challenges?

Week 4

Contemplate this thought for a moment: "Motherhood defends her cradle with hands made iron by love, to save a life more worthy than her own" (Calvin Miller, *The Divine Symphony* [Bethany House Publishing, 2000]). Think about Hannah's strength and sacrifice. She gave her young son to serve in God's house. It must have taken great courage to send away the child she had desperately wanted.

What strengths has God given you that help you prepare your children for service?

Week 5 (or optional)

Our 2-year-old daughter was a copycat. We knew that, but sometimes we forgot. During our supper one evening we were talking about our day. "I had a miserable day," I complained to my husband. "And it didn't help to have Mrs. G stop by for two hours."

"I'm sorry, honey," my husband responded. "Let's have a quiet, relaxing evening."

The next day Mrs. G stopped by again. You guessed it. Our toddler met her at the door and said, "My mommy doesn't want you to come here."

What an embarrassing lesson for me! And what a time I had trying to explain to Mrs. G.

Tell about a time your child heard and repeated something unpleasant you said. How did you deal with it? What changes did you make to avoid similar incidents in the future?

2 ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Imitation Game

Adult asks: **"Can you do this?"** (Spread arms, jump, move head, make different sounds, and so on.) Children imitate adult's actions.

B. Toy Corner

Make a train with several boxes. Children play with toys and then put them away in the "pickup" train.

C. Book Basket

Have a basket or a box with some board books about listening and/or helping. Parents or other adults should assist in telling the stories and looking at the pictures with the children.

D. Home Center

Put some towels or crib sheets on the floor. Make pretend beds with them. Help children roll and unroll them.

E. Help Center

Have children help dry plastic dishes, fold clothes, and put toys away.

F. Listening Game

Play a listening game such as Simon says. Children are to listen and follow directions (sit down, stand up, close your eyes, and so on).

G. Hiding Game

Have a child and an adult find a corner in which to hide. Give them a bell to ring. Other children listen to the bell and look for them. Repeat with other children hiding and ringing the bell.

H. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, invite parents to sit and rock their child.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical instruments

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 1).

Good morning,
Good morning,
Good morning, we say;
We're happy, so happy
To see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus is so happy that we came to Sabbath School. He loves us very much. It's so nice to see each other. It's so nice to be in Sabbath School. Are you glad that it's Sabbath? Let's sing with our instruments.** Distribute musical instruments such as bells, drums, sticks, cymbals, etc. Sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 5) or "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 235).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,
Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to learn about a boy named Samuel and how he helped God. Let's pray and ask God to help us be good helpers for Him.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use this adaptation of the fourth verse of the song "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have children repeat your words. Then sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet each visitor and sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 25) or "We Have a Visitor" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 24).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!
We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!

—Janet Sage

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ❑ offering basket or other container

Say: **Some families don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering money helps other families learn that Jesus loves them.** Place on the floor a basket or container in which the children may place their money while singing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring
On this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus.
May it help someone, we pray.
Amen.

—Norma June Bell

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, we want other families to know You love them. Please use our money to do that. Amen.

E. Birthdays

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Who has had a birthday?** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or pull an animal pull toy around the room while you sing. Stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

You Need:

- ❑ artificial birthday cake
- ❑ candles
- ❑ matches
- ❑ pull toy (optional)
- ❑ small gift (optional)

Assist child in dropping coins into an artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday, we're so glad.
We will see how many (he/she) has had.
As we count the money we are told, *(count)*
Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 38) or "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 39).

Just (age) years old today,
Just (age) years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
(Child's name)'s (age) years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

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Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you!

—Janet Sage

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Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4 EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ❑ Bible "book" for each child (see activity for instructions)

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus, more pictures of different scenes if possible.

Say: **It's time to read our Bible words. Let's look inside our Bible books** (open your Bible book). **In our Bible we read that God loves us. Can you find the picture of Jesus in your Bible?** While the children are looking at their Bible books, sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 27) or "I Open My Bible Carefully" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 28).

I open my Bible book and read,
He loves me, He loves me.
—Johnie B. Wood

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I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love;
I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love.
—Janet Sage

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Say: **Yes, the Bible tells us that God loves us very much. The Bible also tells the story of a little boy who was God's little helper. His name was Samuel. He helped at church and at home. One thing Samuel may have done was to help keep the lamps clean. Say our memory verse with me: "Little Samuel was helping the Lord."**

Teach the memory verse song to the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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B. Samuel Lived in the Tabernacle

You Need:

- ❑ church door prop
- ❑ Bible-times costume for each child (men's striped shirts with sashes tied around the waist; add headband if desired)

Stand in front of the church door and say: **Little Samuel lived in the tabernacle with Priest Eli. Little Samuel was Eli's helper. Little Samuel was God's helper. And every year Samuel's mother made him a nice robe to wear as he helped in the tabernacle. Let's dress up in a robe like Samuel's so we can be ready to help as Samuel helped Priest Eli. Let's sing about being Jesus' helpers while we dress like Samuel.** As adult helpers "dress" the children in Bible-times costumes, sing "Who Is Jesus' Helper?" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 298).

Who is Jesus' helper? Doing all he can?
Samuel was a helper, tiny tho' he was.
—Dorothy Robison. Adapted.

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C. Samuel Helped Make His Bed

You Need:

- ❑ mat or bath towel for each child

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." Little Samuel helped make up his bed in the tabernacle. Can you roll up your bed like Samuel did? Let's sing while we roll up our beds.** Show how to roll the mats or bath towels and sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He rolled up his bed each day.
Samuel was a helper.
—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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D. Samuel Helped Clean the Tabernacle

You Need:

- ❑ dust rags or washcloths
- ❑ several child-size brooms

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." Little Samuel was a helper. He helped keep things clean. He helped dust the furniture. Let's dust our chairs like little Samuel did while we sing.** Give each child a dust rag or washcloth to wipe off their chair. Sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He dusted all the furniture.
Samuel was a helper.
—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Say: **Little Samuel also helped by sweeping the floor. Who wants to sweep the floor like little Samuel?** Have children take turns sweeping the floor with a little broom while the group sings "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He would sweep the dusty floor.
Samuel was a helper.
—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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E. Samuel Helped With Wood

You Need:

- ❑ wooden sticks
- ❑ basket

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." Little Samuel gathered wood for the fire used to cook food and keep the tabernacle warm. Let's fill our wood basket with your wood sticks.** Have the children bring wood sticks and put them in a basket while you sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He carried wood for a fire.
Samuel was a helper.
—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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F. Samuel Helped With the Bread

You Need:

- ❑ plastic or pretend bread
- ❑ small paper or plastic plates
- ❑ table

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." Little Samuel liked to help with the bread. Little Samuel helped put bread on the table. Let's sing while we help with the bread.** Give each child a piece of plastic or pretend bread to put on a plate. Ask them to put the plates on a table while singing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

Samuel was a helper,
Samuel was a helper;
He prepared and helped with bread.
Samuel was a helper.
—Marie Ingham. Adapted.

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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G. Samuel's Bedtime

You Need:

- ❑ star on a stick (optional)
- ❑ flashlight and colander (optional)

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." Samuel worked hard helping Priest Eli and God. Every night before he went to sleep, he prayed. He was so happy that he had been God's little helper that day!**

The stars twinkled at Samuel's bedtime, so let's sing about them. Turn on the "stars" in the window as you dim the room lights. Variations: Give the children a star on a stick to hold, or dim the room lights and turn on a flashlight under an inverted colander to make "stars" on the ceiling. Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 175).

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

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H. Samuel Hears Someone Call

You Need:

- ❑ adult dressed as Eli
- ❑ mat or bath towel for each child

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." He helped all day. It's time for Samuel to go to bed. Eli is going to bed too.** Have an adult playing Eli's part lie down on a mat and pretend to sleep. **Shh! Let's be quiet now. Eli is sleeping. It's time for Samuel to go to bed. Let's sleep like Samuel.** Let the children unroll the mats and lie down on them.

While Samuel was sleeping, he heard someone call him: "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up fast and ran over to Eli's bed. Let's go like Samuel. The "Samuels" get up and go to Eli's bed. **Samuel said: "Here I am; may I help you?"** Have the children repeat the question.

Eli *(adult playing this part):* **I didn't call you. Go back to sleep.** Have the children lie down again.

Now Samuel is sleeping again. But he hears someone call him: "Samuel, Samuel!"

The children jump up and go to Eli again. **Did you call me?** Have children repeat the question.

Eli says: **No, I didn't call you. Go to sleep.** Children lie down again. **And then, what do you hear?** Call softly, **"Samuel, Samuel!" What did Samuel do? Yes, he got out of bed. Let's go like Samuel to see what Eli needs.** Children go to Eli.

Eli says: **I didn't call you. Go back to bed, and when you hear someone call you again, say: "Speak, Lord, for I am listening."**

Samuel did as Eli said. And when God spoke to little Samuel, Samuel listened carefully. God gave Samuel a special message for Priest Eli. That was the first message of many that God gave to Samuel. And Samuel became God's helper for the rest of his life.

I. I Can Listen

Say: **A very good way to be God's little helper at home is by listening and being obedient. Listen carefully when your mommy or daddy calls you. Go quickly to them. Let's practice. Come stand by me. When we sing about being called, you can run back to Mommy or Daddy.** Have the parents sing "Coming, Mother" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 266).

(Child's name), (Child's name)!
Please come here to me.
(Child's name), (Child's name),
Wherever you may be.
Coming, Mother,
As Jesus wants me to.
Coming, Mother,
I'm coming now to you.
—Marilyn Scholes

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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J. I Can Help at Sabbath School

You Need:

- ❑ toys
- ❑ basket
- ❑ rattles or toy stuffed animals

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." You can also be God's helper. You are God's little helper when you help in Sabbath School. Show me what a good helper you can be. Take off your Samuel costume and put it in the box.** Adults assist the children as they remove their costumes and let the children put the costumes wherever you choose to keep them. During this activity, sing "Let's Put All Our Clothes Away" to the tune of "Let's Put All Our Toys Away" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 294).

Let's put all our clothes away
When we stop our play;
Away, away,
Let's put them away,
Let's put our clothes away.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." When you put things away in Sabbath School, you are being God's little helper. Let's put toys away while we sing.** Sing "Let's Put All Our Toys Away" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 294).

Let's put all our toys away
When we stop our play;
Away, away,
Let's put them away,
Let's put our toys away.
—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you for being good helpers. "Little Samuel was helping the Lord." When we give the babies something to hold, we are also being God's little helpers.** While the older children give the babies something to hold (rattles or toy stuffed animals), sing "I'm a Little Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 293).

I'm a little helper,
A helper, a helper,
O I'm a little helper for Jesus!
—Janet Sage

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K. I Can Help at Home

You Need:

- ❑ child-size brooms and mops
- ❑ clothes
- ❑ clothes hamper or basket
- ❑ washcloths
- ❑ water

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." You can also be God's little helper. When you help your family, you are being God's little helper. How do you help your family? One way is to help clean the house. Let's pretend we are helping clean with the brooms and mops and put the clothes in the hamper (or basket) while we sing together.** Sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290).

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
Help my mother clean the house,
I will be a helper.
—Marie Ingham

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Say: **Another way to help at home is by raking leaves with Daddy. Let's sing while we pretend we are raking leaves.** Sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290) and use the words "Help my daddy rake the leaves."

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
Help my daddy rake the leaves,
I will be a helper.
—Marie Ingham

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Sing the memory verse song with the children. See page 77 for the music. (This song will be repeated several times during the lesson.)

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." You can also help at home by washing your hands and face.** Hand out washcloths. Touch the children's cheeks with a little water and have them dry their face. Sing "I Will Be a Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 290) and use the words "I will wash my hands and face."

I will be a helper,
I will be a helper;
I will wash my hands and face,
I will be a helper.
—Marie Ingham

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L. I Am Jesus' Helper

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." He was God's little helper. He helped at church and at home. You are God's little helper. You can help at church and at home.** Sing and clap "Who Is Jesus' Helper?" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 298).

Who is Jesus' helper?
Doing all (he/she) can?
I am Jesus' helper,
Tiny tho' I am.
—Dorothy Robison

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5 MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following each week as you review the story.

Week 1

Samuel's New Robe

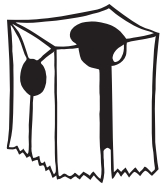
You Need:

- ❑ photocopy of Samuel pattern for each child (see p. 70)
- ❑ construction paper
- ❑ safety scissors
- ❑ fabric or paper scraps
- ❑ glue
- ❑ markers

Say: **Little Samuel's mother made him new clothes every year when he was serving in the tabernacle. Let's help Little Samuel's mother make him a new robe.**

Have parents cut out the outline of Samuel (see p. 70) and help their child draw Samuel's face and hair. Parents can spread glue over the body and help their child stick on pieces of fabric or paper.

Optional: Make a coat from a large (paper) grocery sack. Cut out a neck hole and armholes and color or decorate the robe with fabric or colored construction paper pieces.



(Adapted from Anita Reith Stohs, *Little Hands Can Too* [St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1994].)

Week 2

Welcome Cards

You Need:

- ❑ colored paper
- ❑ safety scissors
- ❑ glue
- ❑ ribbons
- ❑ stickers

Make and decorate cards to hand out to visitors next Sabbath (or in Welcome Time in your church's service when some of the older children and their parents could give them out). Parents fold a sheet of paper in half and write a Bible verse on it and a welcome message. They can help their child glue ribbons and/or add stickers to decorate it.

Week 3

Running Samuel

You Need:

- ❑ photocopy of Samuel pattern (see p. 71) for each child
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ safety scissors
- ❑ two 4" x 6" (10 cm. x 15 cm.) rectangles of paper or fabric, or small brown envelope for each child
- ❑ glue

Parents can cut out the pattern and cut out the circles so children can put their fingers through them to make Samuel "run to help." Child can color Samuel. Help glue the two pieces of paper or fabric to make a bed by gluing three sides together and leaving one open. Alternately, the child can use the envelope as a bed. Child can color the bed. Parents and children can play with it. When parent calls, child takes out their Samuel boy and runs to their parent.

(Adapted from Lois Keffer, *Clip and Tell Some More Bible Stories* [Loveland, Colo.: Group, 1998].)

Week 4

God's Little Helper (Pop-up Puppet)

You Need:

- ❑ plastic or paper cups
- ❑ craft sticks
- ❑ boy and girl silhouette patterns (see p. 71)
- ❑ glue
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ Jesus stickers (optional)

Parents can make a slit on the bottom of the cup and cut out the child's silhouette from the pattern (see p. 71). Children can color it. Glue it to the end of the craft stick. Poke the stick through the bottom of the cup.

Optional: Put a sticker of Jesus on the side of the cup.

You can use this puppet with the song "Who Is Jesus' Helper?" (*Little Voices*

Praise Him, no. 298). Pop up the puppet when the verse says "I am Jesus' helper."

Week 5 (or optional activity)
Candleholders

You Need:

- ❑ small jars or cans
- ❑ votive candles
- ❑ colored tissue paper
- ❑ glue
- ❑ markers
- ❑ glitter (optional)

Draw a pattern or picture on the outside of the jar with glue and glitter, or decorate with tissue paper. Place the votive candle inside. (See page 72.)

Use the candle at home when you tell the story of Samuel as a little helper.

Variations: Make candleholders with nature objects glued to form a circle (pinecones, pieces of bamboo sticks, etc.) or a big piece of clay that can hold a candle, etc.

(From Deborah Stroh, *Christ's Kids Create!* [St. Louis: Concordia Pub. House, 1992].)

Snack Center *(Optional)*

A simple snack may be provided each week, such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice. (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.)

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **"Little Samuel was helping the Lord." I'm so glad Samuel was a little helper for God. And I'm so glad that you are God's little helpers at home and at Sabbath School. Sing our memory verse song with me: "Little Samuel was helping the Lord."**

Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord, helping the Lord.
Little Samuel was helping the Lord,
Helping the Lord.

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Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear God, we love You so much. May we always be Your helpers. Amen.**

Close with singing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."
—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

Samuel Listens to God

References
1 Samuel 3:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 581, 582

Memory Verse
"Little Samuel was helping the Lord" (1 Samuel 3:1, TLB).

The Message
We are God's little helpers.

Cory is a helper. He helps set the table. Samuel was a helper too—just like Cory.

Little Samuel lives at God's tent. Little Samuel has work to do. He is Priest Eli's helper.

(Make a little tent by draping a cloth over the table. As you make the tent together, sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, helping at God's tent.")

See Little Samuel. *(Point to Samuel.)* See his broom. *(Point to the broom.)* Little Samuel has a job to do. He sweeps around God's tent. *(Point to the tabernacle.)*

Little Samuel is Priest Eli's helper. *(Point to Eli.)* Little Samuel is God's helper too. *(Make a tent and sweep. Sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, sweeping at God's tent.")*

See the pretty candlestick. Little Samuel has a job to do. He polishes the candlestick. He keeps the lights burning bright.

Little Samuel is Priest Eli's helper. *(Point to Eli.)* Little Samuel is God's helper too. *(Light a candle on the table, out of reach. Let your child blow the candle out. Clap and affirm your child for helping. Sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, polishing the candlestick.")*

It is night at God's tent. *(Make two beds on the floor with quilts.)* Priest Eli sleeps in his bed. *(Lie down as if you are Eli.)*

Samuel snuggles in his bed. *(Your child lies down.)* Samuel is not asleep. He is looking at the candles. *(Sing, "Samuel, little helper, helper, helper. Samuel, little helper, now it's time to sleep.")*

Shh! Eli is sleeping. *(Snore softly.)*

"Sam-u-el!" *(Call out, then whisper.)* Shh! Who is calling? *(Pause.)* "Samuel!" *(Loudly again.)* It must be Eli.

Little Samuel runs to Eli. "Here I am!" he says. "You called me."

"No," Priest Eli replies. *(Shake head.)* "I did not call. Run back to bed." *(Repeat this twice, making Eli sound more emphatic each time.)*

"Go back to bed, little Samuel," says Priest Eli. "Next time say, 'Speak, Lord. Your helper is listening.'"

So Samuel goes back to bed. *(Your child pretends to sleep.)*

"Sam-u-el," God calls again.

Samuel sits up and says *(wait for your child to sit up),* "Speak, Your helper is listening." And God gave special messages to His little helper. *(Hug your child as you whisper in your child's ear: "Samuel was God's little helper. And you can be God's helper too.")*

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

1. Samuel may have helped put out candles at night. Have your child pretend their index finger is a lit candle and have them "blow it out" after they say the memory verse.

2. Sing a song about baby animals running to their mothers when they are called. Suggested song: "When a Mother Calls" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 274).

3. Tell the Bible story using thumbs as Samuel and Eli. Draw faces on your thumbs. Make them sleep inside your closed fists.

4. Help your child put away toys while singing "Let's Put All Our Toys Away" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 294).

5. Play a shadow game. Children copy what you do (dust furniture, put away toys, and so on).

6. Make a bed for Samuel with a bath mat or towel. Help your child roll up and unroll the "bed" as Samuel did.

7. Let your child help prepare a special treat for a Sabbath meal.

8. Prepare and decorate a box in which your child may put away clothes or toys. Where will you keep it?

9. Help your child listen to and identify different sounds around the house (refrigerator, running water, doorbell, telephone, etc.).

10. Help your child listen to and identify different outdoor sounds (animals, birds, wind, traffic, etc.).

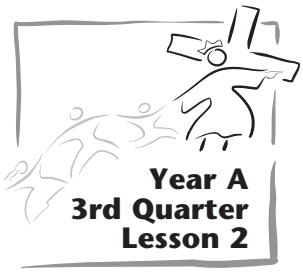
11. Sing (and do the actions to) "Coming, Mother" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 266) or make up a little song about coming when Mother calls.

12. Make a little book together, gluing on its pages magazine pictures of things your child can do to help at home.

13. Play a game (such as Simon says) to give your child practice in listening to and following directions.

14. Make a pin with a happy face on it. Write "I'm God's little helper" on it. Have your child wear it when helping at home.

15. Put some cleaning items (brush, soap, cloths) in a box. Teach your child what they are used for and how to use them. Use a different one each day.



Year A
3rd Quarter
Lesson 2

Food for Elijah

GRACE Grace means belonging to God.

References
1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 119-131.

Memory Verse
"My God will meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God takes care of their needs.
Feel grateful that God looks after them.
Respond by praising God for His care.

The Message

God takes care of our needs.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God sends Elijah to warn King Ahab of a drought that will come upon his land because of idol worship. Elijah delivers the message and goes away. King Ahab is angry. God tells Elijah to go to the brook Kerith, where he will be safe. God cares for him by sending ravens with food to feed him, and giving him water in the brook.

This is a lesson about grace.

God cares about our safety and our physical needs. He uses miraculous ways and/or other people to do this. He still provides the miracles of grace to assure our safety and salvation. Children can trust God to take care of their needs. We can all be thankful for God's love and care.

Teacher Enrichment

"Oft-repeated appeals, remonstrances, and warnings had failed to bring Israel to repentance. The time had come when God must speak to them by means of judgments. Inasmuch as the worshipers of Baal claimed that the treasures of heaven, the dew and the rain, came not from Jehovah, but from the ruling forces of nature, and that it was through the cre-

TWO

ative energy of the sun that the earth was enriched and made to bring forth abundantly, the curse of God was to rest heavily upon the polluted land. The apostate tribes of Israel were to be shown the folly of trusting to the power of Baal for temporal blessings. Until they should turn to God with repentance, and acknowledge Him as the source of all blessing, there should fall upon the land neither dew nor rain. . . .

"He [Elijah] did not seek to be the Lord's messenger; the word of the Lord came to him. . . . The prophet set out at once, and traveled night and day until he reached Samaria. At the palace he solicited no admission, nor waited to be formally announced. Clad in the coarse garments usually worn by the prophets of that time, he passed the guards, apparently unnoticed, and stood for a moment before the astonished king.

"Elijah made no apology for his abrupt appearance. . . . Had he not possessed implicit confidence in the One whom he served, he would never have appeared before Ahab" (*Prophets and Kings,* pp. 120, 121).

Room Decorations

Hang small white Christmas lights (used last month) from the ceiling to be stars. Use large trees and forest animals to make the scene where Elijah hides. Add some drought-condition items (dead tree branches or brown paper trees [no leaves]) to tape to the walls. Place artificial birds in the trees. Use blue cloth or paper to make a brook.

Program Overview

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1	**Parent Time**	up to 5		
2	**Arrival Activities**	up to 10	*A. Book Basket*	board books
			B. Feathered Friends	toy stuffed birds and animals
			C. Food Corner	plastic food
			D. Water Play	dishpans or bowls, water toys, plastic aprons (optional)
			E. Caring for Baby	baby dolls, blankets, baby bottles, diapers
			F. Peekaboo	blanket (optional)
			G. Rocking Chairs	adult-size rocking chairs
3	**Getting Started**	up to 10	Welcome	toy musical instruments
			Prayer	
			Visitors	
			Offering	basket or other container
			Birthdays	artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull toy (optional), small gift (optional)
4	**Experiencing the Story**	up to 30	*A. Memory Verse*	Bible "books"
			B. Pray to God	toy musical instruments
			C. Elijah Helps God	
			D. God Sends the Rain	small umbrella, squirt bottle, "fruit" and "tree"
			E. God Took Care of Elijah	
			F. God Loved Elijah	"star" lights
			G. God Sent Food and Water	cotton balls
			H. Sharing Food	plastic food
			I. God Cares for Me	felts, felt board, Jesus banners on a stick
			J. People Care for Me	play cooking equipment
			K. God Cares for Nature	
			L. We're Happy	
			M. We're Thankful	
			N. God Takes Care of Me	

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 **Make and Take** (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	*Pray to God*	copies of praying hands pattern (see p. 73), paper, crayons, scissors
	Week 2	*Bird Bag Puppets*	small paper lunch bags, crayons or yellow construction paper, scissors (see p. 73)
	Week 3	*Dry Trees*	heavy paper; glue; small, dry twigs
	Week 4	*Peekaboo Flour*	small containers with lids, glue, colored paper bits, flour
	Week 5	*"God Takes Care of Me"*	copies of boy or girl pattern (see p. 74), crayons, scissors, paper plates, glue, hole punch, yarn
Snack Center (Optional)			crackers or bread pieces, fruit slices or juice (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.)

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young parents as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

"'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' He took the children in his arms, and blessed them, and spoke words of encouragement and sympathy to the mothers, and both mothers and children returned to their homes strengthened and blessed by the divine love of the Master. They loved Jesus, and often repeated to others the story of their visit. They told how the disciples had forbidden them, but how the Lord had had compassion upon them" (*The Bible Echo,* Dec. 15, 1892).

Week 2

When I was pregnant with my second child, I had to take our car to the shop for repairs. I left my 1-year-old with a friend, as I would have to wait for quite a while for the car. Usually I would have taken him to the park while we waited, but it was a drizzly day.

The pavement was a little slick, and suddenly I slid off the road and on to the gravel shoulder. Quickly turning the wheel, I overcompensated, and the

car spun around to the opposite side of the road and flipped end over end down a hill. I was amazed that I was able to crawl out of the car. A nice couple stopped and ran to help me. Thankfully, I had only bruises, and my unborn baby was fine. I praised the Lord that my year-old baby had been at the sitter's! God has promised us that whatever happens, He *will* be with us.

Share about a time you knew God was with you.

Week 3

"Jesus knows the burdens of every mother's heart. He who had a mother that struggled with poverty . . . sympathizes with every mother in her labors. . . . In every grief and every need He will give comfort and help" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 512).

Week 4

I just knew I was a terrible mother. I did such dumb things.

My baby was just learning to crawl. Our home had stairs, and I faithfully put the little gate across the top. One morning I needed to go out for some errands, so I picked up the diaper bag and took down the gate. I planned to pick up the baby and leave. He was on the other side of the room when I remembered that I'd forgotten to write something down. Setting down my armload, I picked up a pen and pad, just to jot down a couple of things.

You guessed it: the baby crawled over to the top of the stairs. Crash, scream, thud, down he went. I dashed down to him, my heart pounding, certain that no other mother could be so negligent. After a trip to the doctor, head X-rays, and a "He's just fine" I breathed a sigh of relief. Then I berated myself some more for my carelessness.

Why is it that we are so hard on ourselves over the bumps and bruises of parenthood? Yes, we sometimes do dumb things. But I do take comfort in knowing that "as parents pray, and strive to deal wisely with their children, heavenly angels will work in their behalf" (*Review and Herald,* July 12, 1906). I think I have about 600 working for me.

Share a time you did something thoughtless. Are you even harder on yourself than you should be? How do you think God sees you at that moment?

Week 5

Our children were sound asleep when we left to take our friends to the airport. It was only a couple of kilometers from our home, and we wouldn't be gone long. My parents came to stay with the children while they slept.

The plane was late, and we ended up being gone longer than we had planned. As we headed toward home, we were shocked to see our two children, ages 2 and 4, along the side of the road. They had crossed three very busy roads to get as far as they were. We whisked them into the car and hurried home.

Of course, my parents were shocked to see us drive up with the children, who had still been sleeping as far as they knew. The children had let themselves out of the house and wanted to say goodbye to our guests, so they headed to the airport. We knelt together to thank God for His care and protection of our family.

Share a time your children or family were clearly protected by God.

2 ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities for the early children on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about Elijah, birds, God caring for us, food, rain, etc.

B. Feathered Friends

Have an assortment of toy stuffed animals, birds, and soft-sculptured objects for the children to hold. Talk about things unique to birds—feathers, beaks, etc., and how to treat birds kindly.

C. Food Corner

Provide an assortment of plastic play food for the children to play with. Talk about the names of each and why our bodies need food.

D. Water Play

Provide dishpans or large bowls filled with a small amount of water. Supply the children with small toy boats, water wheels, plastic fish, cups, or other objects to play with in the water. You may want to provide plastic aprons, or large plastic garbage bags with holes for head and arms cut out, for the children to wear to protect their clothing. Talk about why we need water.

E. Caring for Baby

The children can hold and rock baby dolls, change their "diapers," pretend to feed them with a bottle. Talk about how God gave us mommies and daddies to care for us.

F. Peekaboo

Play peekaboo with the children, using your hands or a blanket. Talk about how Elijah had to hide from bad King Ahab.

G. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents may sit and rock their child.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical instruments

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's shake hands as a special way to say good morning.** Walk around and shake hands with each child while you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 1).

Good morning,
Good morning,
Good morning, we say;
We're happy, so happy
to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus is so happy that we came to Sabbath School. He loves us very much. It's so nice to see each other. Are you glad that it's Sabbath? Let's sing with our instruments.** Distribute musical instruments such as bells, drums, sticks, cymbals, etc. Sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 5) or "Sabbath Is a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 235).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,
Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to be talking about how God takes care of us. Let's say thank You to Jesus for caring for us and giving us families to take care of us.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use this adaptation of the fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have children repeat your words. Then sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet each visitor and sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 25) or "We Have a Visitor" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 24).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!
We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!

—Janet Sage

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ❑ offering basket or other container

Say: **Some families don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering helps other families learn that Jesus loves them.** Place on the floor a basket or container in which the children may place their money while singing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring
On this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus.
May it help someone, we pray.
Amen.

—Norma June Bell

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, we want other families to know You love them. Please use our money to do that. Amen.

E. Birthdays

You Need:

- ❑ artificial birthday cake
- ❑ candles
- ❑ matches
- ❑ pull toy (optional)
- ❑ small gift (optional)

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has had a birthday. Who has had a birthday?** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or use an animal pull toy to pull around the room in front of the children while you sing. It would stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

Assist child in dropping coins into artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday, we're so glad.
We will see how many (he/she) has had.
As we count the money we are told, (*count*)
Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 38) or "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 39).

Just (age) years old today,
Just (age) years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
(Child's name)'s (age) years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

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Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you!

—Janet Sage

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Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4 EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ❑ Bible "book" for each child (see activity for instructions)

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus.

Say: **It's time to read our Bible words. Let's look inside our Bible books** (open your Bible book). **In our Bible we read that God takes care of us. Can you find the picture of Jesus in your Bible?** Sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 27) or "I Open My Bible Carefully" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 28) while the children are looking at their Bible books.

I open my Bible book and read,
He keeps me, He keeps me.

—Johnie B. Wood

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I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love;
I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Yes, the Bible tells us that God loves us and takes care of us. The Bible also tells the story of a man named Elijah. Elijah loved and obeyed God. God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), which is our memory verse song, but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*

—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse song several times.

B. Pray to God

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical instruments

Say: **One time, a long time ago, the people where Elijah lived stopped praying to God. Their bad king told the people to pray to idols instead. Idols are statues made of wood or stone. Wood and stone can't hear prayers; only God can. Idols can't take care of us; only God can.** Sing "I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 228) while kneeling down, bowing head, closing eyes, and folding hands.

I talk to Jesus every day,
When I pray, when I pray;
And Jesus hears me every day,
When I pray, when I pray.
—Jacqueline McDonald

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Say: **God hears us when we pray. God is powerful and loving and good to us. We can show our love to God by praising and worshipping Him. Let's sing and make some nice music to God.** The children can use toy musical instruments (or play imaginary instruments mentioned in the song and clap on the beat for remainder of the song) while they sing "Making Music" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 220).

Praise Him with the trumpet, play it
loud and clear,
Then the drums and cymbals, so
ev'ryone can hear!
We're making music for the Lord!
We're making music for the Lord!

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C. Elijah Helps God

Say: **God needed Elijah to do a special job for Him. God asked Elijah to take a message to King Ahab. Elijah didn't ask why. He just did as God asked because He was God's helper. He wanted to do what God asked him to do.**

God still wants people to take messages to others, to help Him tell others about Jesus. Do you want to be God's helper? Do you want to do what He asks? Let's sing about it. Sing "Two Little Eyes" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 306).

Two little eyes to look to God,
Two little ears to hear His Word;
Two little feet to walk His ways,
Hands to serve Him all my days.

One little tongue to speak His truth,
One little heart for Him in youth;
Take them, O Jesus, let them be
Always willing, true to Thee.
—Anonymous

D. God Sends the Rain

You Need:

- ❑ small umbrella
- ❑ squirt bottle
- ❑ "fruit" and "tree"

Say: **God needed Elijah to do a special job for Him. God asked Elijah to tell the king that it wouldn't rain until the people began praying to Him again. So that's what happened. It didn't rain for many, many days. Do you know why? Only God can send the rain.**

Sing "The Raindrops Fall" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 94) while you hold a small umbrella over each child's head and spray water on the umbrella from a squirt bottle (or flick a few drops of water onto each child's hand).

The raindrops fall with a pitter, patter, pit,
Pitter, patter, pit,
Pitter, patter, pit,
The raindrops fall with a pitter, patter, pit,
Showing God's great love.
—Mildred Adair

Say: **I'm so glad that God sends the rain. Why do we need the rain? That's right, the rain makes things grow.** Sing "I Like to Eat an Apple" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 167) while picking an apple off a tree (you can use plastic fruit hanging on an imitation tree, or felt fruit and tree). The children then place the fruit in a basket.

I like to eat an apple, picked from the apple tree.
Dear Jesus sends the sun and rain to make them grow for me.
—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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Say: **Without rain things would turn brown and die. That's what happened to the plants and flowers and trees when God didn't send the rain. But still the people didn't pray to God.**

E. God Took Care of Elijah

Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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F. God Loved Elijah

You Need:

- ❑ "star" lights

Say: **Because it didn't rain, the bad king was angry at Elijah. God told Elijah to go live for a while by a brook. Elijah slept outside at night. Elijah could see the moon and stars that God had made, and he was reminded that God loved him.** Turn off lights and turn on the "star" lights. Sing and do motions to "God Made Us All" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 73).

God made the moon that shines at night,
He made the twinkling stars so bright;
God made the big, round, shining sun,
God made the children, ev'ry one.
—Bertha D. Martin

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G. God Sent Food and Water

You Need:
- ❑ cotton balls

Say: **God made sure there was some water in the brook for Elijah to drink. And He did something very special to feed Elijah. He sent birds to feed him! They were big, black birds called ravens. Every morning and every evening they brought Elijah food.**

Give each child a cotton ball or other small object to represent a piece of bread. Allow them to pretend they are ravens and flap their arms like a bird to "fly" the bread to you. Sing "The Blackbird Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 54).

Where are you going, Blackbird, Blackbird,
Where are you going, Blackbird?
"I am going to help Elijah,
Haven't you heard? Haven't you heard?"

What do you have there, Blackbird, Blackbird,
What do you have there, Blackbird?
"I have food to feed Elijah,
Haven't you heard? Haven't you heard?"

Who sends you to him, Blackbird, Blackbird,
Who sends you to him, Blackbird?
"Jesus sends me to Elijah,
Haven't you heard? Haven't you heard?"

Why does He send you, Blackbird Blackbird,
Why does He send you, Blackbird?
"All because He loves Elijah,
Haven't you heard? Haven't you heard?"
—Janet Sage

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Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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H. Sharing Food

You Need:

- ❑ plastic food

Say: **God took care of Elijah. When it didn't rain for such a long time and the brook didn't have any more water in it, God told Elijah what to do. He sent him to a town where a mommy and her son lived.**

Elijah asked the mommy for a drink of water and some bread to eat. The mommy told Elijah that they didn't have much food left. But Elijah told her that God would give them enough food. So she trusted God and gave Elijah her last bread.

From then on there was always a little bit more flour and oil to make more bread. God did take care of them. Wasn't it nice that that mommy shared her bread and trusted God to take care of them? It's nice when we share our food too.

Use plastic food for the children to share with their parent. Sing "I'll Share My Only One" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 275), but change the words as noted below.

If I had a (name food) and you had none,
I'd share with you my only one,
For Jesus wants me to, and I love you.
—Rosalie Blackmore. Adapted.

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Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs *(Point to others.)*,
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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I. God Cares for Me

You Need:

- ❑ felts
- ❑ felt board
- ❑ Jesus banners on stick

Say: **Just as God took care of Elijah, God takes care of you too. How does Jesus take care of you? He gives you a home and food and clothing.**

Have the children place on the board felts of houses, food, and clothing items. Sing "Yes, Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 118).

Yes, Jesus cares for me.
Yes, Jesus cares for me.
He gives me my home and my food and my clothing.
Oh, yes, Jesus cares for me.
—Enid G. Thorson

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Say: **Jesus is watching over you and keeping you safe too. Let's wave our Jesus banners to remember that while we sing together.**

(Jesus banners can be made by gluing a felt flag with Jesus' face on it to a wooden stick.) Sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 103).

Jesus loves me; Jesus loves me;
I'm so glad; I'm so glad.
He will never leave me; He will never leave me.
I feel safe, I feel safe.

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J. People Care for Me

You Need:

- ❑ play cooking equipment

Say: **God used birds and other people to take care of Elijah. God uses your family and other people to take care of you. Let's give a hug to the person who brought you to Sabbath School while we sing.** Sing "Jesus Gave Me a Mommy" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 251).

Jesus gave me a mommy (daddy, grandma, etc.),
She says, "I love you."
Jesus gave me a mommy,
She says, "I love you."
—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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Say: **How does your family take care of you? They cook good food for you, they give you clothes to wear, they tell you Bible stories, they play with you and love you. Let's pretend you are your mommy or daddy cooking good food.** Supply play cooking pots, bowls, spoons, etc. Sing "My Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 252).

My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
My fam'ly cooks good food for me,
I love my family.

My fam'ly takes good care of me,
My fam'ly takes good care of me,
My fam'ly takes good care of me,
I love my family.

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Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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K. God Cares for Nature

Say: **God takes care of even the things outside, like trees and flowers and animals, just as He takes care of you. Let's pretend we're trees and flowers while we sing.** Children stand up, hold hands over head, and sway back and forth for trees; nod head for flowers. Sing "Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 100).

The tall green trees are swaying,
In the breeze, in the breeze;
I think that they are saying,
Jesus cares for me.

The pretty flowers are nodding,
In the breeze, in the breeze;
I think that they are saying,
Jesus cares for me.

—Mary E. Schwab

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Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave Elijah what he needed. God will give you what you need too.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*

—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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L. We're Happy

Say: **Because Jesus cares for us, we can be happy. Let's clap our hands while we sing.** Sing "I Am Happy as Can Be!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 214), but change the words as noted below.

I am happy as can be!
I am happy as can be
For ev'rything that Jesus does for me!

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Say: **God took care of Elijah when he didn't have any food or water. God gave him what he needed. God will give you what you need too.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted below.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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M. We're Thankful

Say: **Because God does so many wonderful things to care for us, we need to thank Him. Let's march around in a circle while we sing a song to God to thank Him.** Sing "Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 221), but change the words as noted below.

Thank Him, thank Him, all you happy children,
He is love, He is love;
Thank Him, thank Him, all you happy children,
He is love, He is love.
—Anonymous/Adapted

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N. God Takes Care of Me

Say: **We don't need to worry about anything because God is with us all the time, watching over us and loving us. Let's stand and do the motions of working, playing, walking, running, sleeping, and waking while we sing together.** Sing "God Takes Care of Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 90).

God takes care of me,
God takes care of me,
When I work and when I play,
Yes, God takes care of me.

God takes care of me,
God takes care of me,
When I walk and when I run,
Yes, God takes care of me.

God takes care of me,
God takes care of me,
When I sleep and when I wake,
Yes, God takes care of me.
—Rebecca Edwards-Lesser

5 MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1
Pray to God

You Need:

- ❑ copies of praying hands pattern (see p. 73)
- ❑ paper
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ scissors

Parents can assist their children in coloring the praying hands pattern. Then the parents can cut them out and write "Pray to God" on them. Talk about how prayer is talking to God.

Week 2
Bird Bag Puppets

You Need:

- ❑ small brown paper lunch bags
- ❑ crayons or yellow construction paper
- ❑ scissors

Have parents help their children draw a bird's eyes and beak on the flap of the bottom of the folded bag OR these may be cut from construction paper and glued to the bag. Children can help color the bird. Show the children how to put their hand into the bag to make their bird puppet move its head.

See page 73 for an illustration.

Week 3
Dry Trees

You Need:

- ❑ heavy paper
- ❑ glue
- ❑ small, dry twigs

Parents can assist their child in gluing the small twigs (to represent trees) onto the paper to make a dry tree scene. Talk about how trees can't live without water and how happy you are that God sends the rain to take care of the trees.

Week 4
Peekaboo Flour

You Need:

- ❑ small containers with lids
- ❑ glue
- ❑ colored paper bits
- ❑ flour

Give each child a small container with a lid (film canister, margarine tub, etc.). Parents can help children glue small bits of colored paper onto the outside of the container. Then put a small amount of flour into each decorated container and talk about how God kept the widow supplied with a small amount of flour every day. The children may play peekaboo with the container—open the lid, peek in, then close it.

Week 5 (or optional activity)
"God Takes Care of Me" Door Hanging

You Need:

- ❑ copies of boy/girl pattern (see p. 74)
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ paper plates
- ❑ glue
- ❑ hole punch
- ❑ yarn

Parents assist their children in coloring either a boy or girl pattern picture. Then the parent cuts it out and helps their child glue it onto a paper plate. A hole punched at the top and yarn strung through and tied will make a door hanging. Parents write the words "God takes care of me" on the plate.

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack can be provided each week, such as crackers, fruit slices, or juice. The children may enjoy acting as Elijah and drinking water and eating bread cubes to simulate food the ravens may have brought. (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.)

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **I'm so glad God takes care of us. He gives us all we need. Let's sing our memory verse song one more time.** Sing and do the actions to "All Our Needs" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 85), but change the words as noted.

My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs, *(Point to others.)*
All your needs; *(Point to others.)*
My God *(Point upward.)*
Will meet all your needs, *(Point to others.)*
Thank You, thank You, Lord. *(Put hands together as if praying.)*
—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

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Say a short prayer thanking God for watching over us. Close with singing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."
—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

Food for Elijah

References
1 Kings 17:1-16; *Prophets and Kings,* pp. 119-131

Memory Verse
"My God will meet all your needs" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).

The Message
God takes care of our needs.

Mei Ling sees the baby bird. Mother bird brings food for the baby bird. A long time ago birds brought food to a man.

God told Elijah to take a message to King Ahab. So Elijah told the king: "God says, 'No rain for one-two-three years!'" *(Count on your child's fingers.)* King Ahab *(point to the king)* is angry at God. He is angry at Elijah too. *(Point to Elijah.)* Elijah is God's friend. God will hide Elijah.

Run, Elijah, run! The king is looking for you. *(Shade your eyes; look around.)* Run and hide, Elijah. *(Run with child around the table.)*

Where is Elijah? *(Child points to Elijah.)* Hiding, hiding. Elijah is hiding from mean King Ahab. *(Together, hide behind a chair and finish reading this page.)*

The king cannot see Elijah. Nobody can see God's friend. *(Shade eyes, look around.)* But God can see Elijah. God takes good care of His friend. *(Clap.)*

Shh! *(Finger to lips. Whisper.)* Listen, listen. What does Elijah hear?

Elijah hears the water. *(Point to the water.)* Elijah hears wind in the trees.

And God hears Elijah pray. *(Clasp hands in prayer.)* Rest, Elijah, rest. Rest by the water.

Drinking, drinking. *(Pretend to drink.)* Elijah has lots of water. But where is Elijah's food? *(Point to Elijah and the bare rocks around him.)*

There is no food for Elijah. No bread. No rice. No potatoes.

See the big, black birds. They fly in the sky. *(Pretend to fly.)* Big, black birds bring food for Elijah. They bring bread. *(Pretend to eat.)* Yum-yum-yum! The birds brought bread for Elijah to eat. *(Clasp hands in prayer.)* "Thank You for the bread. Thank You, God, for sending the big, black birds."

It is time to sleep. Elijah kneels and talks to God. *(Kneel and close eyes.)* "Thank You, God, for this safe place. Thank You for the water. Thank You for the big, black birds and for the food. Thank You for loving me. Amen." *(Hug your child.)*

Every morning and every night big birds fly to Elijah. *(Pretend to fly.)* Big birds bring him bread.

For one-two-three years there is no rain. *(Count on your child's fingers.)* The trees dry up. *(Point to a dry leaf.)* The water dries up. *(Try to drink from an empty glass.)*

But God takes good care of Elijah. "Thank You, Jesus. You love Elijah, and You love us."

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

1. Play a hiding game such as Elijah hiding from King Ahab. Sing a song of thanks to Jesus for taking care of your family.

2. Look at pictures of birds in a book; find a raven. Thank Jesus for the birds we enjoy.

3. Sprinkle water on your child while he or she is in the bathtub. Talk about how God sends the rain. Thank God for the rain

4. Take a walk and name all the things that need water to grow. Thank Jesus for good water that makes things grow.

5. Watch it rain. Go outside afterward and notice how the water soaks into the ground. Or let your child use an umbrella and walk in the rain.

6. Look at pictures of firefighters, police officers, etc., and talk about how they keep us safe.

7. Find a picture of an angel and talk about how angels watch over us. Tell your child about his or her guardian angel.

8. Pretend you are birds and fly to each other with a cracker in your "beak." Thank Jesus for your food.

9. Drink a glass of water and talk about how good it is for your body.

10. Visit a brook or stream and talk about how Elijah lived by a brook.

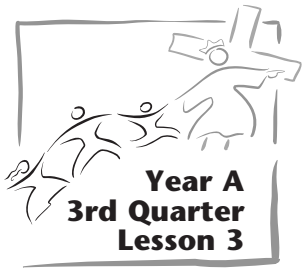
11. Visit an aviary, pet store, or zoo to see different kinds of birds.

12. Notice all the different kinds of bread at the grocery store. Let your child pick a favorite. Or let your child help you make bread.

13. Let your child use a doll to pretend to be a mommy or daddy. Talk about and count the ways your child can show kindness at home.

14. Help your child say a thank-You prayer to God for your family.

15. Ask your child to pretend to do things such as run, sleep, eat, etc. While they do, ask, "Is God taking care of you?" Then say, "Yes, God is taking care of you."



A New Baby Boy

COMMUNITY Community means caring for one another.

References
2 Kings 4:8-37; *Prophets and Kings,* p. 237.

Memory Verse
"Do good to each other" (1 Thessalonians 5:15, TLB).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God wants us to care for one another.
Feel happy when they do nice things for others.
Respond by showing kindness that makes others happy.

The Message

We can be kind to others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A kind Shunammite woman offers Elisha a meal whenever he visits her town. She wants to do something more for the prophet Elisha, so she and her husband build a rooftop room for him to stay in when he comes their way. Elisha is pleased and wants to do something nice for them. His servant notices that the Shunammite woman has no son and tells Elisha. Elisha tells her that she will have a son next year. He prays, and God gives her a baby boy—the son she has longed for.

This is a lesson about community.

People in God's family are always eager to do kind things for one another. God is happy when we help one another and when we pray for each other. He will hear and answer our prayers. He will help us be kind to others.

Teacher Enrichment

"By faithfulness in little things, Elisha was preparing for weightier trusts. . . . He learned to serve; and in learning this, he learned also how

THREE

to instruct and lead. The lesson is for all. . . .

"It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service; but the conscientious performance of daily duties, the contented spirit, the unaffected, sincere interest in the welfare of others. In the humblest lot true excellence may be found. The commonest tasks, wrought with loving faithfulness, are beautiful in God's sight" (*Prophets and Kings,* pp. 218, 219).

Room Decorations

Prepare an indoor scene with a window with curtains (put some Christmas lights behind the window for stars), a table, some mats or bath towels for beds, a lamp or a candle, and a chair. This can be part of a wall in the room that can be completed when it is building time in the lesson.

Program Overview

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1	**Parent Time**	up to 5		
2	**Arrival Activities**	up to 10	*A. Book Basket*	board books about babies
			B. Home Corner	plastic dishes, cups, silverware, play food
			C. Construction Corner	toy carpenter tools, blocks or boxes
			D. Sharing Corner	artificial flowers, baskets or "vases"
			E. Toy Center	soft toys, box or basket
			F. Doll Corner	baby dolls, blankets, toy baby bottles, doll crib, child-size rocking chair
			G. Rocking Chairs	adult-size rocking chair
3	**Getting Started**	up to 10	Welcome	toy musical instruments
			Prayer	
			Visitors	
			Offering	basket or other container
			Birthdays	artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, pull toy (optional), small gift (optional)
4	**Experiencing the Story**	up to 30	*A. Memory Verse*	Bible "books"
			B. Elisha Travels	
			C. Elisha Stops	disposable cups, imitation fruit
			D. Building a Room	boxes, toy carpenter tools
			E. Making the Room Pretty	plastic flowers, flower vase, mat, candle, child-size table and chair
			F. Surprise!	toy musical instruments
			G. Elisha Repays Kindness	baby dolls
			H. Little Baby Grows	toys in box
			I. We Can Be Kind	
			J. Let Us Do Good	

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 **Make and Take** (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	*"I Care" Cards*	colored construction paper, crayons, glue, nature items
	Week 2	*Pocket Hearts*	felt, sew-in interfacing or construction paper (half sheet for each child), flowers, drawings or Bible promises cards (see p. 75)
	Week 3	*Place Mats*	cardboard, heavy paper, or fabric; scissors; glue; nature items
	Week 4	*Prayer Ribbons*	ribbon, scissors, rings, glue, cardboard or vinyl, family pictures, paper (see p. 76)
	Week 5 (optional)	*Caring Medallions*	plastic lids or cardboard circles, colored paper, glue, scissors, markers, ribbon, stickers, hole punch
Snack Center (Optional)			no-bake treat or fruit slices

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

I was busily cooking supper when my young child asked me, "Mommy, why don't you smile as much as Aunt Kathy does?"

The question took me by surprise and made me realize I'd been working furiously with a frown on my face. *Well,* I thought as I rolled my eyes, *Kathy is alone for the weekend without her children, husband, or house to take care of!* "I have a lot of things to think about and do, honey," I replied.

"Oh. Well, I'd like it if you smiled more," he said.

"I'll try," I said as I forced a smile.

A lesson from a 5-year-old! I want to give joy to my children without worrying about the many details of life that cause me to frown. I want my children to smile and laugh when they are with me. Ellen White says, "Smile, parents. . . . Let the sunshine from a loving, grateful heart light up the countenance" (*Child Guidance,* p. 148).

What can you do to create more joyful moments for your children?

Week 2

My baby looked into my eyes. I loved feeding time. He would rub his little hand lovingly back and forth across my arm as I held his bottle. It seemed so amazing to me that such a tiny baby could even do that! My heart overflowed with motherly joy.

I've often remembered those sweet little moments—his way of showing his love to me. Now he's a toddler and likes to rub my back. How good God is, to give us little "Mommy moments" that are indescribably precious. "My soul shall be joyful in the Lord" (Psalm 35:9, KJV).

Share some of your favorite moments as parents. How does the love you feel for your child help you understand God's love better?

Week 3

Charlotte's baby was sick. Terribly sick. Her little body was racked with fever. Finally the doctors decided that she had an infection. It nearly killed her, but she survived. However, her life would never be normal. She would never walk. She wasn't able to breathe without a ventilator. Charlotte's husband couldn't take it. He left them.

Where was God in the midst of all this? It took Charlotte a long time to figure that out. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, . . . you are with me" (Psalm 23:4, NIV). Charlotte's attitude now is this: "No one can get through life without pain. We can only choose what we'll do with the pain that comes our way. I know pain. But I also know peace."

What do you choose to do with the pain that comes your way? What do you do when God seems far away? What scripture comes to your mind as encouragement for those times?

Week 4

I was seven months pregnant. It had been a difficult pregnancy, and I sometimes wondered if I would make it through. I was in the kitchen when it happened. Blood everywhere. I knew I was losing my baby.

My husband was traveling overseas, and I was alone with my two older children. I called my next-door neighbor, an elderly grandmother who was also my friend. She came at once and took charge. An ambulance soon arrived. Her husband took charge of my older children, and she accompanied me to the hospital. She didn't know how to reach my husband, so she called his boss and asked him to do so. It was all over before my husband returned home.

I was grateful for my good neighbor, who knew just what to do, who stayed with me and took care of my children until family could arrive to help out. Friends are a blessing!

Tell about a time a "good neighbor" showed you kindness and how you responded.

Week 5 (or optional)

My baby boy had a high fever. I had tried everything I could think of. I called my friends who were young mothers and asked for advice—and followed it. But nothing seemed to help. Finally I called the doctor's office and asked to talk to him. "The doctor is busy" was the response. "We'll ask him to call when he can."

I waited—and prayed. And waited—and prayed. And waited and prayed some more. Finally the call came, and believe it or not, the doctor came soon after! In minutes he knew just what to do and did it. Soon my little one was breathing normally and the fever was gone. I'll never forget how grateful I was when that doctor knocked on my door. He really cared! Thank God for good doctors!

What experiences have you had with caring doctors who answered your prayers?

2 ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities for the early children on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide some Bible story books and board books about babies. Have the children share them and put them away.

B. Home Corner

Have some plastic dishes, cups, silverware, and play food on a child-size table. Let the children "set" the table and pretend to have breakfast.

C. Construction Corner

Provide appropriate materials so children may pretend to build a house by using toy plastic tools and blocks or boxes.

D. Sharing Corner

Have children put artificial flowers in baskets or nonbreakable "vases" and take them to their parents.

E. Toy Center

Have some soft toys for the children to play with. Encourage them to share the toys and put them away in a box or basket when finished.

F. Doll Corner

Provide several baby dolls with blankets and toy baby bottles for children to use as they pretend to be mommies and daddies. A doll crib and child-size rocking chair will enhance this activity.

G. Rocking Chairs

For children who may be too shy or sleepy to join in the activities, parents may sit and rock their child.

3 GETTING STARTED

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical instruments

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. Let's say hello to everybody as I shake your hand.** Walk around the room greeting the children and their parents while you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 1).

Good morning,
Good morning,
Good morning, we say;
We're happy, so happy
to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus is so happy that we came to Sabbath School. He loves us very much. It's so nice to see each other. Are you glad that it's Sabbath? Let's sing with our instruments.** Distribute musical instruments such as bells, drums, sticks, cymbals, etc. Sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 5) or "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 235).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,
Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **Today we are going to be learning about how we can help others be happy. We are happy, and we want to say thank You to Jesus for loving us so much.** Encourage the families to help their child kneel. To prepare for prayer, use this adaptation of the fourth verse of the song "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have children repeat your words. Then sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet each visitor and sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 25) or "We Have a Visitor" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 24).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!
We have a visitor here today;
Hello! Hello! Hello!

—Janet Sage

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ❑ offering basket or other container

Say: **Some families don't know that Jesus loves them. Our offering money helps other families learn that Jesus loves them. So we bring our offering to Sabbath School to help others know about Jesus.** Place on the floor a container in which the children may place their money while singing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring
On this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus.
May it help someone, we pray.
Amen.

—Norma June Bell

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple prayer similar to the following:

Dear Jesus, we want other families to know You love them. Please use our money to do that. Amen.

E. Birthdays

You Need:

- ❑ artificial birthday cake
- ❑ candles
- ❑ matches
- ❑ pull toy (optional)
- ❑ small gift (optional)

Say: **God gives us our birthdays. Someone here has had a birthday. Who has had a birthday?** Lead the birthday child up front while singing. (Or use an animal pull toy to pull around the room in front of the children while you sing. Stop at and circle in front of the birthday child.) Sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

Assist child in dropping coins into an artificial cake while singing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 37).

(Child's name) has a birthday, we're so glad.
We will see how many (he/she) has had.
As we count the money we are told, (*count*)
Yes, the money says (he's/she's) (age) years old.

—Johnie B. Wood

Light birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 38) or "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 39).

Just (age) years old today,
Just (age) years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
(Child's name)'s (age) years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

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Happy birthday, happy birthday,
Happy birthday to you;
Jesus loves you, dear (child's name),
Happy birthday to you!

—Janet Sage

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Encourage the birthday child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4 EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ❑ Bible "book" for each child

Give each child a tiny Bible book made of felt or construction paper with at least one picture of Jesus.

Say: **It's time to read our Bible words. Let's look inside our Bible books** (open your Bible book). **In our Bible we read that God helps us. Can you find the picture of Jesus in your Bible?** While the children are looking at their Bible books, sing "I Open My Bible Book and Read" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 27) or "I Open My Bible Carefully" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 28).

I open my Bible book and read,
He helps me, He helps me.

—Johnie B. Wood

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I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love;
I open my Bible carefully
And learn of Jesus' love.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **We can be kind to others. God will help us. The Bible tells about God's helper, a man named Elisha. Elisha loved God. A woman who lived in Shunem did kind things for Elisha. God wants us to be kind to each other too. Let's sing our memory verse while we hug someone.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

Be kind, be kind to each other.
Be kind, be kind to each other.
Be kind, be kind,
Be kind to each other.

—Linda Schomburg

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B. Elisha Travels

Say: **Elisha walked everywhere. They didn't have cars or airplanes or trains in Elisha's day. So Elisha walked to different places to help people. He was kind to others wherever he went. Let's pretend we are traveling with Elisha. Follow me as we walk around the room.** Sing "Shall We Go for a Walk Today?" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 82), but change the words as noted.

Shall we go for a walk today,
A walk today, a walk today?
Shall we go for a walk today,
And be kind like Elisha?
—Aurora M. Shumate. Adapted.

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C. Elisha Stops

You Need:

- ❑ disposable cups
- ❑ imitation fruit

Say: **Elisha often walked by the same house near the town of Shunem. A kind woman and her husband lived in that house. They could see that Elisha and his helper were tired and hungry when they came walking by. So they often invited them to rest and eat at their house. They had a happy home because they followed God and were kind.**

We can be kind to others too. Let's pretend that your mommy or daddy is Elisha. Give them a cup of water to drink as we sing. Give each child an empty disposable cup to use as they "serve" their parent or other caretaker. Sing "God's Ways" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 259).

I'll make my home a happy home
By following God's ways;
If I am kind and loving there,
We shall have happy days.
—Mary LeBar

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Say: **The kind woman gave Elisha some food to eat. We can be kind to others too. Can you offer a piece of fruit to the adult with you?** Sing "God's Ways" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 259).

I'll make my home a happy home
By following God's ways;
If I am kind and loving there,
We shall have happy days.
—Mary LeBar

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Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

Be kind, be kind to each other.
Be kind, be kind to each other.
Be kind, be kind,
Be kind to each other.
—Linda Schomburg

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Say: **Elisha felt comfortable and happy at his friends' home, but he had to be on his way. He thanked the kind man and woman of Shunem and said goodbye.**

Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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D. Building a Room

You Need:

- ❑ large empty boxes
- ❑ toy carpenter tools

Say: **The kind woman of Shunem watched Elisha walk down the road. Can you pretend you are watching Elisha walk away?** Shield eyes with hand.

She began to think of what she could do for Elisha. She knew he was tired and needed a place to rest. But he had to keep walking to find a place because she didn't have a room for him. That's it! She probably ran to her husband (encourage children to run in place) **and asked him if they could build a room for Elisha on their flat roof. Her husband thought that was a good idea and went to work.**

We can be kind to others too. So let's help him build with some tools and building materials.

Children can carry boxes and build a "wall," and/or use tools to pretend they are building while singing "Tap, Tap, Tap" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 281).

Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
That's how Daddy's hammer goes;
Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
Daddy shows his love.

Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
We will build a room today;
Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
We will show our love.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Repeat the memory verse song. Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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Be kind to each other.

—Linda Schomburg

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E. Making the Room Pretty

You Need:

- ❑ plastic flowers in pots or plant boxes
- ❑ flower vase
- ❑ mat for bed
- ❑ candle
- ❑ child-size table and chair

Say: **When the kind man finished building the room on their flat roof, the kind woman wanted to make the room look pretty and comfortable. So she put a bed** (point to the bed or spread out a mat on the floor), **a chair, a table, and a candle in the room. What a nice room they made. Maybe the woman added some pretty flowers that God made.**

We can be kind to others too. Can you help pick some flowers and put them in this vase? Flowers

can be "planted" in pots or planting trays with Styrofoam so the children can "pick" the flowers and bring them to you as you sing "God Made It So" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 163).

This world is full of pretty flow'rs,
Pretty flow'rs, pretty flow'rs;
This world is full of pretty flow'rs.
God made it so,
God made it so,
God made it so.
This world is full of pretty flow'rs.
God made it so.
—Charles M. Fillmore

Words and Music Copyright © 1936 by Charles M. Filmore

Put the flowers on the table and say: **There! That looks so pretty.**

Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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Be kind to each other.
—Linda Schomburg

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F. Surprise!

You Need:

- ❑ toy musical instruments

Say: **The kind woman and her husband waited for Elisha to walk by their house again. And one day he did! They told Elisha they had a surprise for him. They took him up the stairs to the room on the roof** (encourage children to pretend walking up stairs).

When Elisha saw the room, he was very surprised and very happy! (Encourage children to show a surprised look on their faces.) **He was very happy because they had been so kind to him. Let's sing a happy song.** Distribute toy instruments or clap hands while singing "Things That I Can Do" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 299), but change the words as noted below.

There are many things that we can do;
Doodle, doodle, doot, doot, doo.
We can build a room, for we love you;
Doodle, doodle, doot, doot, doo.
—Derrel Billingsley. Adapted.

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Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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G. Elisha Repays Kindness

You Need:
❑ baby dolls

Say: **Elisha wanted to do something nice for the kind woman and her husband because they had been so kind to him. He asked his servant for ideas, and his servant remembered that the couple had no children.**

No children? No children to play with, or sing to, or hug. No children to tell stories to about how God created the world, or about Noah's flood. Yes, Elisha thought that was a good idea. So he prayed to God and asked Him to give them a baby.

Let's kneel down and pretend we are Elisha praying to God for a baby. Kneel down and say a simple prayer, such as: **Dear God, these people have been so kind to me. Please give them a baby in their home. Thank You. Amen.**

And do you know what God did? He heard Elisha's prayer, and the kind woman had a baby boy. She loved him so much. She was kind to her baby and comforted him when he cried. Can we pretend to have a little baby in our arms? Can you rock your little baby?

Or give children baby dolls to hold and rock while singing "Don't Cry, Little Baby" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 246).

Don't cry, little baby, don't cry, don't cry;
Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you;
Don't cry, little baby, don't cry, don't cry;
Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you.
—Janet Sage

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H. Little Baby Grows

You Need:
❑ toys in box

Say: **The little baby grew to be a little boy, just like you are a little boy or girl. And his mommy and daddy taught him to do kind things for others too. He shared his toys. Do you share your toys? We can be kind to others too. Let's share a toy with someone else.**

Have the children choose a toy from a box and share it with parents and/or with another child while singing "I'll Take Turns" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 276) or "I'll Share My Only One" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 275).

I'll take turns with my dolly (airplane),
I'll take turns with you.
I'll take turns with my picture book (big red ball),
For Jesus wants me to.
—Joy Hicklin Stewart. Adapted.

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If I had a dolly (toy car) and you had none,
I'd let you hold my only one,
For Jesus wants me to,
And I love you.
—Rosalie Blackmore

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Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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—Linda Schomburg

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Say: **The little boy also could have been kind by saying kind words. He could tell his mommy and daddy he loved them. He could say please and thank you. He could tell others about God.**

We can be kind to others too. Let's sing a song and do motions about using our lips to say kind things, and about using our hands to do kind things. Sing "Kind Lips" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 310).

My little lips will be kind lips, *(Point to lips.)*
My little lips will be kind lips,
My little lips will be kind lips,
Saying kind things for dear Jesus.
(Point upward.)

My little hands will be kind hands,
(Hold hands up.)
My little hands will be kind hands,
My little hands will be kind hands,
Doing kind things for dear Jesus.
(Point upward.)
—Mary E. Schwab

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Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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I. We Can Be Kind

Say: **Jesus wants us to be kind to others too. We can be kind to others, just as the woman and her husband were kind to Elisha, and just as Elisha was kind to them. How can we be kind to others? Let's do a finger play together called "Five Little Children."**

Five little children *(Hold a hand up with fingers all up.)*
Standing in a row.
They do good things for others,
Everywhere they go. *(Put all fingers down.)*

One little child, *(Raise left thumb.)*
She's really very sweet.
She helps her mother
Stack the laundry neat. *(Put one hand over the other as if stacking things.)*

This good child *(Raise second finger.)*
Puts all toys away
Nice and neat for Mother,
Does this every day. *(Pretend putting toys in box.)*

This little child *(Raise third finger.)*
Helps Father in the yard.
He says he works
Very, very hard. *(Pretend raking.)*

This little child *(Raise fourth finger.)*
Plays with baby brother.
That is very helpful
To this child's mother. *(Cover eyes, playing peekaboo.)*

This little child *(Raise fifth finger.)*
Knows of Jesus' love. *(Hug yourself.)*
How He came from heaven, *(Point up.)*
God's home up above.

Five little children *(Hold a hand up with fingers all up.)*
Standing in a row.
They do good things for others,
Everywhere they go. *(Move hand up and down and away as if children are walking away.)*

Adapted from Helen Kitchell Evans, "Ten Little Children," in *Preschool Bible Games, Songs and Finger Plays* (Shining Star Publications, Torrance: Calif. 1992), p. 68.

Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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J. Let Us Do Good

Say: **I'm so glad that we can be kind to others. It makes us feel good when we are helpful, loving, and do something nice for someone else. Let's clap and sing together about doing good.** Clap and sing "Let Us Do Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 263).

Let us do good to everyone,
Let us do good for Jesus.
Say a kind word;
Sing a glad song;
Let us do good,
Let us do good for Jesus.
—Ellen R. Thompson

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Say: **Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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5 MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following as you review the lesson story.

Week 1

"I Care" Cards

You Need:

- ❑ colored construction paper
- ❑ crayons
- ❑ glue
- ❑ nature items (pressed flowers, feathers, leaves, etc.)

Parents can help the children fold the paper in half and glue on nature elements to make a card. You could write "I care" inside them. Hand them out to church visitors or send them to sick church members.

Week 2

Pocket Hearts

You Need:

- ❑ felt, sew-in interfacing, or construction paper (half sheet for each child)
- ❑ flowers, drawings, or Bible promises cards

Follow the directions on the pattern (see p. 75). Write the memory verse on the flap. Fill the pockets with flowers, drawings, or cards with Bible promises. Have the children give them away to friends, neighbors, or family members.

Week 3

Place Mats

You Need:

- ❑ cardboard, heavy paper, or fabric
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ glue
- ❑ nature items (pressed flowers, feathers, leaves, etc.)

Beforehand, cut the cardboard, heavy paper, or fabric into 17" x 12" (44 cm. x 31 cm.) place mats. Parents can help their child decorate the place mats by drawing or gluing on nature items you have at hand. If you use paper or cardboard, you might want to cover them with clear adhesive paper. Have the children take them home to use when having guests or for Sabbath meals.

Week 4

Prayer Ribbons

You Need:

- ❑ ribbon
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ rings
- ❑ glue
- ❑ cardboard or vinyl
- ❑ family pictures
- ❑ paper

Follow the directions on the pattern (see p. 76). This is a craft for home use. Put names or pictures on the name badges. Pray for these people when the children are finished.

Week 5 (or optional activity)
Caring Medallions

You Need:

- ❑ round plastic lids or cardboard circles
- ❑ colored paper
- ❑ glue
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ markers
- ❑ ribbon
- ❑ stickers
- ❑ hole punch

Ask the parents or other adults to write on the colored paper or on the plastic lid: "(name of the child) cares." Have adults help the children draw a picture or put some stickers on the medallion. Use the hole punch to make a hole at the top; then attach a long ribbon to the circle to wear as a medallion. Award this when the child helps in Sabbath School or at home.

Snack Center (Optional)

Plan a snack with which children can help. Let them help set the table, or prepare a no-baking treat, or decorate a platter with fruit wedges. Provide napkins and use wet paper towels to wipe the children's hands before they eat and when finished. (Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.)

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's message: We can be kind to others. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **I'm so glad the woman and man of Shunem showed kindness to Elisha. I'm so glad that Elisha showed kindness to them when he prayed for them to have a baby. I'm so glad that God showed kindness by giving them a baby. We can be kind to others too. Let's sing our memory verse song one more time while you hug your parent or caregiver.**

Sing "Be Kind to Each Other." Use the music on page 78 or adapt the melody to the words and use either "Be Kind to One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 260) or "Love One Another" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 264).

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Be kind to each other.
—Linda Schomburg

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Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear God, we love You so much. Help us always to be kind to others. Amen.**

Close with singing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him,* no. 44).

It is time to say goodbye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."
—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

A New Baby Boy

References
2 Kings 4:8-37; *Prophets and Kings,* p. 237

Memory Verse
"Do good to each other" (1 Thessalonians 5:15, TLB).

The Message
We can be kind to others.

Aaron likes to play with baby. See the baby's tiny fist. The baby holds Aaron's finger. One woman in the Bible feels sad. She has no baby.

Elisha is God's man. *(Point to Elisha.)* Walking, walking. *(Together, walk around the room.)* Elisha takes a long walk to Shunem.

A kind woman *(point to the woman)* sees Elisha coming. "Elisha, come to our house!" the kind woman calls. "Come and eat with us."

See the good food. "Please eat," the kind woman says. *(Point to the food.)* Yum-yum-yum! *(Pretend to eat.)* She gives Elisha some good fruit.

Elisha eats good food. Soon he is full. *(Rub tummy.)*

"Elisha needs a place to rest when he comes here," the kind woman says to her husband. *(Point to the woman.)* "Let's build a room for him."

So the kind woman and her husband decide to build a little room for Elisha.

Every day the kind man works to build a room for Elisha. *(Point to the man.)* His hammer goes tap, tap, tap. *(Point to the hammer and pretend to tap with a hammer.)* His saw goes cut, cut, cut. *(Pretend to cut wood with a saw.)*

See Elisha's new room. *(Point to each item as it is named.)* See Elisha's table. See the lamp on the table. "This room is for you, Elisha," the kind woman says.

Elisha likes his new room. *(Point to Elisha.)* "Thank you," he says. "You are so kind to me. I want to do something for you."

But the kind woman says, "Thank you, but I don't really need anything."

Elisha really wants to do something nice for the kind woman. His servant says that the kind woman has no children. She really wants a baby. Sometimes she is sad because she has no little baby at her house.

Elisha says, "You are kind to me. I will ask God to give you a baby boy. Next year you will have a baby to love."

See the little baby. *(Point to the baby.)* "Come, see my baby boy," the kind woman calls to Elisha. *(Point to Elisha.)*

Elisha feels happy. *(Laugh and tickle your child.)* Elisha feels happy for the kind woman. *(Point to the woman.)*

Her baby is growing. *(Point to the baby.)* Soon he will be a big boy. The kind woman is happy because God gave her a baby.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

1. Call or visit someone your child loves. Talk about a kind deed your child can do for that person.

2. Go to a place where children run and play. Encourage your child to be kind to the other children. Sing a sharing song you know or make one up.

3. Play a "Can-you-do-this?" game. Have your child help you do something kind as you play (pick up paper, put books away, set the table, etc.).

4. Let your child help you set the table nicely for family dinner tonight. Practice saying please and thank you to each other as you work.

5. Prepare a chores chart with simple things your child can do to help at home. Affirm them when they help you.

6. Name and count with your child the ways they were kind to others today.

7. Record your child saying or singing the memory verse. Play it back to them.

8. Spend some time snuggling together while reading a story. Tell your child how much you love them.

9. Sing the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me." Sing it again, but change the words to "Yes, Mommy (Daddy) loves me, And I love (Jesus, Mommy, Daddy) too."

10. Set out two boxes or baskets. Have your child put away their toys in one and clothes in the other.

11. Take some flowers, food, a card, or the craft made in Sabbath School to a shut-in.

12. Make a card with paint blobs. Scatter some drops of different-colored paint on a paper. Fold the paper in half. Unfold it and let it dry. Write the memory verse inside.

13. Let your child help you bake some goodies. Serve them as a special surprise at supper or give them to a neighbor or shut-in.

14. Build a "room for Elisha" with blocks or empty boxes, or use toy tools to hammer and saw.

15. Say the finger play "Five Little Children" learned in Sabbath School (see page 64).